

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
EXTENSION SERVICE  
Washington, D. C.

B E T T E R   L I V I N G   F O R   A   B E T T E R   W O R L D\*

4-H and FAO

**NOTE:** 4-H and FAO have similar aims. FAO is the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Its job is "to make the best better" on farms all over the world.

This material, showing the relationship of the two organizations, is suggested for use as a 4-H Club program, or for special occasions such as camps and round-ups.

The introduction may be read aloud to the group, then followed by a discussion based on the agree-disagree statements and the quiz on pages 3 and 4. Background information on FAO is found on pages 4 and 5. Available movies and film strips are listed on pages 5 and 6, other source materials on pages 6 and 7.

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OUR DAILY BREAD

"Give us this day our daily bread..."

That's a phrase we have heard and repeated many times as part of the Lord's Prayer. Think what it means.

To a 4-H'er in the United States it means "I'm thankful that I have enough to eat. I'm glad I know there's enough food for three meals tomorrow and the next day and the next, and that I never have to go to bed hungry."

To all of us who are world neighbors, it also means "I wish that everyone in the world could have enough to eat."

Remember in Bible times that there were years of plenty and years of lean? The years of lean were years of famine and starvation. But these things aren't just in the Bible and in history books--we have famines today. As recently as 1943 there was a famine in India. For weeks there was no rain, and the crops dried up.

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Then a cyclone hit. More crops were destroyed and homes and farms were ruined. More than three and a half million people died of starvation. That's as many people as live in the whole State of Indiana!

Two-thirds of the people of the world are farmers or fishermen or forestry workers, but there still isn't enough food. Even when crops are good, many people still go hungry. In the Biblical countries of the Near East today, from 60 to 80 percent of the people suffer from malnutrition and undernourishment.

#### WHY ISN'T THERE ENOUGH FOOD?

Why is it that with so many farmers there isn't enough food?

It can't be that there aren't enough farmers, for in our country one farm family produces enough food for several other families.

Is it that the soil can't grow enough food for the whole human family? That isn't likely either, because it's getting easier and easier for a farmer to grow a peck of potatoes or a bushel of wheat. By using hybrid seed corn a farmer makes 5 bushels of corn grow today where only 4 grew a few years ago. Fertilizers and DDT and tractors and modern harvesting equipment all help to make more food grow on less land with less effort. It would seem there should be plenty of food.

That's the answer. There is plenty of food in countries where science has been harnessed—harnessed for better farming, better highways, better transportation and communication, better standards of living. When a country has these things it means there are plenty of jobs, and that means that people have money to buy the farmer's goods. It means a "balanced economy." It means stable government, and assures the farmer that he can sell what he raises at a good price.

Our farmers are efficient, but it isn't because the American farmer or scientist has a corner on "know-how" or resources. DDT was first perfected in Germany and was brought to the United States from Switzerland. Russian scientists developed the technique of improving livestock by artificial breeding methods. Soybeans originated in China and Japan, and alfalfa was brought to the Western World by the Spaniards. There are scientists in every country who are helping farmers.

The difference between efficient and inefficient farming in many countries is that there is no link between the scientist and the farmer. There is nobody to take the scientific discovery to the farm where it can be used. There is no county agent. So the farmers go on using the same crude implements, the same poor seeds, the same farming methods that their ancestors have used for hundreds of years past. It's no wonder that their crops are small.

Because our Extension Service, through its county agents, takes science to the farm, our farmers can be efficient. That means fewer farmers are needed. The people no longer needed on the land are producing tractors and feed grinders and refrigerators and cars. That way all of us have high living standards and buying power. And most important, we all have plenty of food. We get, each day, our daily bread.

## WANTED: COUNTY AGENTS FOR THE WORLD

What's needed, then, is something like a county agent system for the world. There needs to be a county agent for every district in India, every commune in Italy, every native village in Africa. Then these farmers, too, could be more efficient and would enjoy years of plenty.

Fifty-eight countries of the world have formed an organization to accomplish just that. It is called the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and it is a member of the United Nations family. FAO hopes to accomplish food for all by setting up an extension service for the world.

The United States Extension Service is a cooperative effort between the National Government and the 48 States. FAO is a cooperative effort among 58 countries. When a scientist in one country discovers a cure for a disease of livestock, FAO will carry that knowledge to all the other countries. Similarly, when other problems of farmers are solved, FAO will tell all the farmers of the world about it. Every country will benefit by this joint effort, just as all the 48 States of our country have benefited by a pooling of "know-how" among all United States specialists.

Food for all. That's a big goal, but scientists say it is possible. And it would be worth all the effort the people of these 58 nations could put into FAO if that goal could be reached.

## FOOD FOR THOUGHT

"Wars begin in the minds of men..." says the preamble to the Constitution of UNESCO, one of FAO's sister organizations in the United Nations family. That's true, but unrest which may lead to war begins in the stomachs of men. Where there is hunger there is no peace.

We can help build for peace by working with the people of all countries in the "battle for bread." We as 4-H'ers can help build for peace by producing more and better food. We can also help by being good world neighbors and by knowing what is being done by the United Nations family to conquer hunger, disease, ignorance.

As a group decide whether you agree (A) or disagree (D):

A D  
( ) ( ) 1. The better food the people eat, the more intelligent and efficient they are.  
( ) ( ) 2. The biggest cause of half-empty stomachs is empty pockets.  
( ) ( ) 3. God never made a desert.  
( ) ( ) 4. Farming methods in the United States today are already as efficient as they can be, so the United States can't benefit from belonging to an organization such as FAO.

A D

( ) ( ) 5. Smart farmers will promote aid to other countries.

( ) ( ) 6. Farmers in advanced countries like ours wouldn't have to worry about "farm surpluses" if everyone were well fed and well clothed.

( ) ( ) 7. The people of the world want to get together to solve common problems. It is the governments, not the people, who have lagged behind.

( ) ( ) 8. Our suggestions for how we can help solve the world food problem are:  
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## A QUIZ FOR WORLD NEIGHBORS

Choose which you think is right, then check with the answers on page 6.

1. FAO is a (relief) (research) (show-how) organization.
2. Average life expectancy has been quoted as 67 years in New Zealand and 62 years in the United States. People in these countries average about 3200 calories per person per day. In India, where each person averages 2,000 calories a day, life expectancy is (27) (40) (53) years.
3. In the 25 years between 1919 and 1944, the average American farm worker increased his output of food by (15) (50) (70) percent.
4. Lack of money or earning power is often the reason for hunger. The average income per head in the United States in 1933 was about \$313. Average income per head in China that year was (\$12) (\$50) (\$200).
5. The world's biggest food problem is undernutrition or lack of enough food. But in many areas the problem is also one of malnutrition or lack of the right foods. Which group of foods is most lacking in the diets of malnourished people? (sugars and cereals) (fats and meats) (milk, fruits, and vegetables)

## WHY FAO WAS FORMED

The idea for FAO was born in 1943 at Hot Springs, Va. President Roosevelt had called a meeting there to discuss food. Forty-four allied countries at war sent representatives, for they realized how important food was in winning the war. At this meeting the nations pledged themselves to a second goal: after the war was won they would work together in attaining freedom from want.

FAO now has a staff of about 500 workers from more than 40 nations. Most of these workers are stationed at FAO's temporary headquarters in Washington, D. C. Others work in regional offices around the world and in the various member countries advising governments on their food and farming problems.

Many of FAO's workers are scientists—veterinarians, nutritionists, entomologists, foresters, plant breeders, fisheries experts, soil conservationists, and such. Others are economists and information writers and typists and translators. The

work of all these people is coordinated by a Director-General. Norris E. Dodd, former Under Secretary of Agriculture of this country, became Director-General in 1948. Sir John Boyd Orr, a Scottish farmer and nutritionist, was the first Director-General.

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#### AIMS OF FAO

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations has these chief aims--

To help nations raise the standard of living;  
To improve nutrition of the peoples of all countries;  
To increase the efficiency of farming, forestry, and fisheries;  
To better the condition of rural people;  
And, through all these means, to widen the opportunity of all people for productive work.

\* \* \*

"How unconcerned the grazing sheep, behaving in such manner;  
They stand upon their breakfast, they lie down upon their dinner.  
This would not seem so strange to us if fish grew round our legs,  
If we had floors of marmalade and beds of buttered eggs!"

#### FILMS ON FOOD

Several films on the food problem and FAO are available for showing in your county. Here's a brief listing, with instructions on where to get them:

BATTLE FOR BREAD. 23 minutes, Black and white. 16 mm. Sound.  
Produced for United Nations by March of Time. Shows FAO at work around the world. Write the March of Time Forum Editor, 369 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y. Rental is about \$3.

THE WORLD IS RICH. 43 minutes. Black and white. 16 mm. Sound.  
Produced in England, this film dramatizes the world food situation. Sir John Boyd Orr, FAO's first Director-General, introduces the film and summarizes its message. You can get it from the nearest British consulate or Information Service. Or write to the British Information Services, 30 Rockefeller Plaza, New York 20, N. Y. Rental is about \$6.

REBIRTH OF A FARM. 11 minutes. Black and white. 16 mm. Sound.  
A complete record of a 1-day soil conservation demonstration on a small farm in Maryland. Available at your State agricultural college.

GREEN GOLD. 20 minutes. Black and white. 16 or 35 mm. Sound.  
Produced in Sweden for the United Nations. Shows how important trees are to agriculture and a high living standard. Write to the United Nations Department of Public Information, Lake Success, N. Y.

## FILM STRIPS

Four FAO film strips can also be obtained. These can be had by writing to the Information Division of FAO, 1201 Connecticut Avenue NW., Washington 6, D. C. Instructions for using the film strip and notes to be read as the pictures are shown come with each strip.

**FOOD AND PEOPLE.** 58 frames. Black and white. Emphasizes that the people of the world can all be fed properly, and describes steps FAO has taken toward that end.

**THIEVES OF STORED GRAIN.** 52 frames. Black and white. Shows methods of fighting rats and insects around the world. These thieves steal more than 33 million tons of bread grains and rice each year--enough to keep 150 million people alive for a year.

**RICE AND HEALTH.** 58 frames. Color. Designed to teach people of southeastern Asia what a good rice diet is and why it is important for health. Is also enjoyed by audiences in this country.

**FAO IN ASIA.** 41 frames. Black and white. Features technical help FAO has given in countries of Asia and the Far East.

ANSWERS for "A Quiz for World Neighbors." 1. Show-how. 2. 27 years. 3. 70 percent. 4. \$12. 5. Milk, fruits, and vegetables.

## OTHER SOURCES

- I. Watch current reading material for information on the world food problem and on FAO.
- II. Ask for the following magazines at your library:
  1. Survey Graphic, March 1948, special issue on food.
  2. The United Nations Bulletin. Published monthly by the United Nations.
  3. The United Nations World. Published monthly by a group of internationally known writers.
  4. The Country Gentleman, August 1949 issue, contains article on FAO called "County Agent for the World."
- III. Write to the Information Division of FAO, 1201 Connecticut Avenue N. W., Washington 6, D. C., for limited quantities of the following:
  1. Story of FAO. A booklet telling of FAO's aims and achievements in story form. Free.
  2. Balancing Food and People. A pamphlet discussing FAO's approach to solving the world food problem. Free.
  3. FAO--What It Is, What It Does, How It Works. A descriptive leaflet. Free.

4. FAO Projects. A listing of some 60 projects which FAO has undertaken in member countries. Mimeographed. Free.
5. FAO Bulletin. A periodical publication. Free.
6. Publications on special topics such as soil conservation, storing of grain, forestry, fisheries, and food statistics, are for sale at prices ranging from 35 cents to \$3.50. Publications catalog free.

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IF YOU and your club would like to have more program booklets like this one--perhaps one describing some of FAO's projects--write and tell the Information Division of FAO, 1201 Connecticut Avenue N.W., Washington 6, D. C.

